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BUCKFASTLEIGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1953.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1953.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Live Births (legitimate)	42	20	22
(illegitimate)	-	-	-
Still Births (legitimate)	1	1	-
(illegitimate)	-	-	-
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age	1	-	1
Birth rate per 1,000 civilian population	16.43		

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Deaths	26	10	16
Death rate per 1000 civilian population	10.17		
Infant Mortality rate per 1000 live births	23.85		

This is an extremely satisfactory return and I can find no record that it has ever before been equalled. Birth rate, death rate and infantile mortality rate are better than those for England & Wales, which are:-

	<u>England & Wales</u>	<u>Buckfastleigh</u>
Birth rate	15.5	16.4
Death rate	11.4	10.1
Infantile mortality rate	26.8	23.8

Causes of death as recorded by the Registrar-General:-

Vascular Lesion of Central nervous system	8
Malignant neoplasm	6
Diseases of heart	5
Bronchitis	3
Other defined diseases (one each)	3
Accident	1

The age at death is, as usual, interesting. One died under 1 year and 1 at 93; 10 between 80 and 90; 7 between 70 and 80. The average age of those who died over 60 years of age being 78.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING.

During the year the Council adopted the Model Building Byelaws except Nos. 18, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 104 and 105.

A reserve refuse dump, some distance outside the town, was leased from the owners, its use being restricted to the summer months and at the Sanitary Inspector's discretion, until such time as the present dump in Duckspend Road is filled.

A site for a Caravan Park was acquired and the approval of the Dartmoor National Park Committee was obtained to its establishment.

A further housing site of $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres was purchased by the Council at Buckfast.

Contracts were placed and the work commenced on a further 25 houses.

One house was cleared of vermin under Sec. 83 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

The factories were inspected during the year and found to be satisfactory.

The whole district has been inspected by the Rodent Operator and although small pockets were discovered there is no great infestation in the district. The sewers produced a completely negative picture.

FOOD INSPECTION.

Every food shop in the town has been inspected and found to be satisfactory. They fall into the following categories and numbers:-

General/Grocery	11	Fish	3
Butchers	3	Greengrocery	1

There are three dairies in the town and these are visited regularly.

Condemned food is very small, being mainly tinned foodstuffs, and this is disposed of by burying on the refuse dump.

WATER.

The augmentation scheme from Brockhill Mire on Dartmoor for use during drought periods is almost complete and the order has been placed for the installation of an automatic pH correction plant at the Reservoir. The chlorination plant is working satisfactorily but it appears that mixing in the Reservoir is inefficient on occasions.

SEWERAGE.

The overloading of the works has again given rise to anxiety and work has been authorised to clean out sludge lagoons and sub-drain certain meadows to help in improving the final discharge to the River Dart.

Council Offices,
Harewood,
Buckfastleigh,
Devon.

E. IRONSIDE
Medical Officer of Health
G.T.W. ALLEN
Sanitary Inspector

